

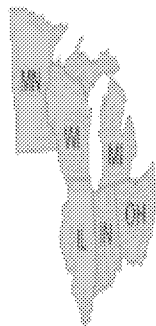
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Great Lakes

# Region 5 Intelligence Briefing



November 17, 2021

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## Illinois

### **Rep. Rush Wants EPA To Look Into Dixmoor Water Crisis; Debra Shore States Priorities.**

WMAQ-TV<sup>3</sup> (11/16) reports Rep. Bobby Rush “wants the Environmental Protection Agency and the state to secure affordable and depend dependable supplies of clean water for residents.” Rush “said the Dixmoor crisis, which left people without adequate water for weeks, was due to crumbling infrastructure and political disputes.” He “is asking the EPA to study the water supply and delivery systems across that area.” The new head of the EPA’s “Midwest region lays out the plans she is making for our area. Debra Shore says environmental justice will be a top priority focusing on the public health of people, especially those who live in underserved communities.” Other priorities include “hazardous waste cleanup and creating a plan for climate change.”

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## Michigan

### **Detroit Residents File Federal Complaint About Stellantis Plant Pollution.**

The **Detroit Free Press** (11/16, Lawrence) reports residents of “an east side Detroit neighborhood and the Great Lakes Environmental Law Center have filed a civil rights complaint with the federal government” against the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) alleging “permits for the city’s first new vehicle assembly plant in three decades,” a Stellantis plant that produces Jeep Grand Cherokee, “amount to discrimination.” The complaint “seeks voluntary relocation assistance and additional home repair funds for residents as well a requirement that Michigan environmental regulators study the cumulative impacts of pollutants in its permitting process.” EPA spokesperson Taylor Gillespie acknowledged receiving the complaint.

The **Detroit News** (11/16, Noble) and **Detroit Metro Times** (11/16, Neavling) also report.

### **Infrastructure Law Will Cover Remaining Funds For Benton Harbor Pipe Replacement.**

**Moody On The Market (MI)** (11/16) reports, “With the signing of the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure package now complete, Benton Harbor can expect to get the remaining money needed to replace lead water service lines around the city.” Mayor Marcus Muhammad said Monday, “I went to the [Michigan] House Oversight Committee to ask for another \$11.4 million, which we will be receiving either through the

APRA funds, or just recently President Biden has signed the infrastructure bill and I've been made aware that he is aware of Benton Harbor, and in signing it, we were in mind."

## **Activists Continue To Oppose Asphalt Plant On Flint Border.**

**WJRT-TV** Flint, MI (11/16, Nafso) reports "there is a 90 day window to appeal a decision to allow an asphalt plant to be built in Genesee Township, along the Flint border," and environmental activists "are taking action and calling on government agencies across the state to stop the construction."

Environmental Transformation Movement of Flint Executive Director Mona Munroe-Younis and member Anthony Paciorek "are now asking Flint City Council to help out, asking council to sign a reaffirmation letter against the permit to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and asking the EPA to take action by pausing this process for a month until a cumulative impact analysis is done to make a more educated decision."

## **Growth Energy CEO Testifies Before House Committee.**

**FarmProgress** (11/16, Fatka) reports Growth Energy CEO Emily Skor testified before a House Agriculture Committee hearing Tuesday. Skor "emphasized the importance of swift action on the Environmental Protection Agency's rulemaking on the long-overdue annual renewable volume obligations under the RFS" and "expressed concern about EPA reopening the 2020 RVOs retroactively and acceding to requests by oil states and refineries to lower 2020 RVOs for reasons unrelated to RFS compliance."

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# **Minnesota**

## **Minn. To Require Some Industries To Monitor For PFAS.**

**Minnesota Public Radio** (11/16, Marohn) reports on its website, "Minnesota plans to require hundreds of industrial facilities and other sites to test for PFAS, the troublesome human-made substances sometimes known as 'forever chemicals.'" The article adds, "State environmental regulators released the draft plan on Tuesday, calling it a critical step in better understanding how the chemicals are getting into the environment, and potentially reducing their levels." According to the article, "Since PFAS produced by 3M were first discovered in the groundwater of the east Twin Cities metro in the early 2000s, much of the focus has been on their presence in the drinking water supplies." The article continues, "However, the problem isn't contained to groundwater, or to the Twin Cities metro."

In its article about the state's monitoring plan, **KARE-TV** Minneapolis (11/16, Croman) reports on its website that PFAS have "been on the agency's radar for quite some time, due to PFAS contamination in ground water linked to 3M chemical dump sites." According to the article, "Testing and remediation efforts are currently underway, funded in part by a legal settlement between the state and 3M." **KARE-TV** (11/16) also broadcast a version of this story. The **Minneapolis Star Tribune** (11/16, Stanley) similarly reports.

Without mentioning 3M, the **St. Paul (MN) Pioneer Press** (11/16, Piña) also reports. Behind a paywall, **Bloomberg Law** (11/16, Joyce) also reports. 3M is not mentioned in front of the paywall.

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